

February 20, 2014

Ed Royce, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

Eliot Engel, Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Royce and Ranking Member Engel:

On behalf of the Corporate Council on Africa, I am writing to support your leadership of the Electrify Africa Act which focuses on a critical need in Africa - reliable access to electricity – and an important opportunity for American businesses.

Our mission is to increase US investment and trade with and in Africa. We support policies that foster foreign direct investment in Africa, to facilitate trade between the United States and African countries, and to introduce U.S. companies to the continent's vast economic opportunities. We also have key African businesses as members. In toto, our members represent more than eight-five percent of all US private investment in Africa.

Your bill provides an important strategic framework for U.S. private and public sector engagement in the power sector. Infrastructure requires long-term engagement at both the policy and project level. We appreciate the transparency, strategic framework and tools that your bill provides. Without greater electrification and power, Africa cannot develop and US investment in Africa will be limited.

This bill is both good for Africa and good for the United States. As you well know, access to energy in Africa deepens economic growth and job creation, providing access to information, education and technology, and reducing deforestation. When their economy improves, it deepens the market for our businesses and helps create jobs here at home.

Thank you for your leadership to increase power in Africa. We are committed to working with you toward passage of the Electrify Africa Act.

Respectfully,



Stephen Hayes
President and CEO
Corporate Council on Africa